



Governor's Steering Committee on Natural Resource-based Industries

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July 15, 2006

Hon. Governor John E. Baldacci

1 State House Station

Augusta ME 04333

Dear Governor Baldacci,

Thank you for your remarks at the green infrastructure forum hosted by the Governor's Steering Committee on Maine's Natural Resource-based Industry on June 29, 2006. Over 70 people attended the forum and we are delighted with their enthusiastic response.

Participants suggested creating an endowment fund and developing a proposal for bond funds to help fund the acquisition and upkeep of our parks and historic sites, state recreation lands, trails, and facilities, state-held conservation and working landscape easements, boat launching sites, fish hatcheries, traditionally-accessible private lands, and other "green infrastructure."

Also at the forum, there was strong feedback that the Governor's Steering Committee should move forward with assembling a broad coalition modeled loosely after the Working Waterfront Coalition.

The University of Maine has graciously offered to host the coalition and provide administrative support. Given the high level of interest in developing a coalition and the offer of support from the University, we are proceeding.

Our goal is to include a broad range of conservationists, recreational groups, landowners, and public and private agencies that would take charge of developing the substance of the funding proposals and advocate for their passage. We are aiming to have proposals developed in time for your consideration to submit to the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

Once again, we thank you for the leadership and support you have lent this effort over the past two and a half years. We look forward to working with you to sustain our green infrastructure in a way that supports all of Maine's natural resource-based industries.

Sincerely,

Richard Davies

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cc: Members, Steering Committee